

LIVESTOCK



CATTLE AND CALVES

Persisting drought was the primary reason that New Mexico's inventory of all cattle and calves dropped significantly to 1,340,000 head as of January 1, 2013. Milk cow inventory decreased from 335,000 to 320,000 head. Dairy producers retained 125,000 heifers for replacement. Beef cow inventory decreased 10.3 percent to 390,000 head, which was the lowest recorded inventory. Ranchers held 75,000 heifers for beef cow replacement. The number of steers weighing 500 pounds or more decreased to 80,000 head from 110,000. Bull inventory this year came in at 35,000 head. Calves on hand weighing less than 500 pounds, including both beef and dairy calves, totaled 215,000 head. The 2012 calf crop was estimated at 580,000 head. Gross income from cattle and calves totaled \$1,757 million in 2012, up 3.69 percent from the previous year.

RANGE AND PASTURE FEED 2012

The reporting of range and pasture conditions began in late March to early April. Conditions were reported at 74 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 9 percent fair, and 1 percent good with conditions getting slowly better through the month of April. Rangeland moisture was needed very much. Range and pasture conditions were mostly very poor to fair. Topsoil moisture reported for mid May was 45 percent very short, 30 percent short, and 25 percent adequate; this continued to decline through the month of May. Mild rains were seen in mid May and early June, but moisture was still mostly very short. Moisture began to improve during late June greening up pastures. July brought beneficial rain, increasing the moisture, but still very short. August rains were significant, soil moisture began to deteriorate, and range conditions slightly improved; temperatures were seen in the mid 80s to high 90s.

September temperatures were two to five degrees above normal with a good amount of rain in some parts of the state. However, moisture rose again in late September to 56 percent very short, 38 percent short, and 6 percent adequate. As of early October, ranchers continued to supplemental feeding and culling herd due to shortage of native range grass. Much needed rain showed up too late to help native grasses. Early October rangeland began to improve. Temperatures ranged from the mid 70s to the high 90s. Late October started to see range and pasture conditions improve to 53 percent very poor, 31 percent poor, 15 percent fair, and 1 percent good. Late November brought temperatures to the mid 60s in parts of the state.

DAIRY

Beginning inventory of milk cows was 320,000 head on January 1, 2013, down 4 percent from a year earlier. The average number during 2012 was 330,000. Milk production was down slightly from 8.18 billion pounds in 2011 to 8.15 billion pounds in 2012. Cash receipts from marketing have decreased 11 percent from the previous year. New Mexico ended the year ranked ninth in the nation in milk production.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Sheep and lamb inventory totaled 100,000 head as of January 1, 2013, matching the 2012 inventory. The number of breeding sheep was 86,000 head, a decrease of 3,000 head from 2012. Market sheep and lambs increased 3,000 head from the previous year to 14,000 head. The 2012 lamb crop was unchanged from 2011 to 50,000 lambs. In 2012 wool was sheared from 85,000 sheep and lambs, producing 650,000 pounds. The value of wool produced increased to \$1.30 million as the average price of wool increased \$0.15 per pound to \$2.00 per pound.